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Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing
Monday, March 1, 2010

Testimony of State Representative Joan Lewis In Support of SB 244
AN ACT VALIDATING THE NOVEMBER 3, 2009 REFERENDUM IN THE
TOWN OF COLUMBIA REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE CHARTER OF
THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Senator Coleman, Representative Sharkey, Members of the Planning and Development Committee, for the record my name is Joan Lewis State Representative for the 8th District which includes the towns of Coventry, Columbia and Vernon.

First let me thank the committee for raising this bill and the opportunity to submit this testimony. The proposed bill seeks to validate the vote cast by the electors and voters of the Town of Columbia at the referendum held on November 3, 2009 relating to revisions to the charter of the Town of Columbia.

Prior to the referendum, the full updated charter was online at the Town of Columbia's website and paper copies were available at the Town Hall and at the local library; however, town officials failed to publish the entire charter in the local newspaper as required by state statutes so that technically the vote did not happen. This bill will validate the results of the referendum and allow the Town of Columbia to operate under the revised charter.

I encourage the committee to vote in support of this legislation. Again, thank you for this opportunity to present testimony.